

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /101 W

----- 058129

R 121540Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4323

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5225

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, YO

SUBJECT: ZONE B DISPUTE-PRESS REACTION

REF: BELGRADE'S 1740

1. WE AGREE WITH REFTEL THAT QUOTATIONS FROM ITALIAN "FASCIST"
PRESS LIKELY TO BE HIGHLY SELECTIVE.

2. MORE BALANCED IMPRESSION OF ITALIAN PUBLIC AND PRESS ATTITUDES
MAY BE GAINED FROM FACT THAT DEMONSTRATIONS IN ITALY REACTING TO
EVENTS IN YUGOSLAVIA HAVE NOT DEVELOPED, NOR HAS ANY ITALIAN ELEMENT
OTHER THAN EXTREME RIGHT AND REFUGEE CIRCLES ATTEMPTED TO EXPLOIT
ISSUE. PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY OFFICIALS CLOSEST TO THE PROBLEM (E.G.,
TRIESTE PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT ZANETTI, TRIESTE 24; AND CITY COUNCIL
LEADERS, TRIESTE VIA USS RALEIGH APRIL 11, 1654Z) HAVE BEEN RES-
PONSIBLE, CONCERNED, AND HAVE APPEALED FOR CALM AND RELAXED
RELATIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF BORDER.

3. PCI HAS HANDLED SUBJECT GINGERLY, PRESUMABLY CAUGHT IN THE
FORK OF NOT WISHING TO OFFEND YUGOSLAV LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS,
WHILE AT THE SAME TIME NOT WISHING TO APPEAR CLOSELY ATTUNED
TO THE OFFICIAL LINE OF THE NATION'S ADVERSARY IN THIS MATTER.

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RESULT HAS BEEN FOR PCI'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECTION CHIEF SEGRE

TO URGE BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE GOOD RELATIONS IN MUTUAL INTERESTS; ITALIAN INTEREST IN STRONG, NON-ALIGNED YUGOSLAVIA, AND BELGRADE'S INTEREST IN CONSOLIDATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN ITALY (ROME'S 4491).

4. BELGRADE HAS BEEN ADDRESSEE OF ALL REPORTING THIS SUBJECT FROM ROME AND TRIESTE, WITH COMMON THREAD BEING THE LOW KEY NATURE OF MOST COVERAGE IN RESPONSIBLE ITALIAN PRESS. FACT IS THAT SUBJECT IS ALSO RAN IN MOST MEDIA REPORTING OUTSIDE TRIESTE AREA. A REVIEW OF LAST TWO WEEKS ISSUES OF USIS ROME'S DAILY PRESS MESSAGE TO DEPARTMENT DISCLOSES ONE MENTION OF THE SUBJECT, OVERSHADOWED BY OTHER NEWS OF INTERNATIONAL (US/EC RELATIONS, POMPIDOU, MID-EAST) AND DOMESTIC (ECONOMIC BAD NEWS, INFLATION, DIVORCE REFERENDUM) INTEREST. THIS IS OF COURSE CONSISTENT WITH GOI DESIRES AND HOPES THAT THE ISSUE WILL GO AWAY IF THEY DON'T HAVE RECURRENCE OF MARCH 11 FOOT IN MOUTH DISEASE. VOLPE

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